necessary to maintain a viable balance of payment consistant with our development needs.

Payment of D.A. to Central Government employees

401. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:
SHRI SHABBIR AHMED SALARIA:
SHRI JAGADISH JANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of D.A. instalments released for the Central Government employees so far during the current year;

(b) what is the amount of additional expenditure that is likely to be incurred on this account;

(c) what are the reasons for which D.A. instalments w.e.f. 1st July, 1991 to the employees drawing basic salary exceeding Rs. 3500/- has not been cleared;

(d) what will be the estimated monthly expenditure for this D.A. instalment for those drawing basic pay exceeding Rs. 3500|- p.m.;

(e) by when this instalment is proposed to be released;

(f) whether additional instalment of D.A w.e.f. 1st July, 1991 have been granted to Central Government pensioners; and

(g) if so, what are the details in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) Two instalments of Dearness Allowance have been released for making payments during the current financial year as per details given in statement. I. (*See* below).

(b) During the current financial year, the expenditure to be incurred on account of sanction of additional instalment of Dearness Allowances is estimated about Rs. 1170 crores.

(c) and (e) The matter is still under examination.

(d) About Rs. 1.75 crores per month.

(f) and (g) The details are given in statement II.

Statement—I

Date from which payable	Employees drawing pay upto Rs. 3500/- per month	Employees drawing pay above Rs. 3500/- p.m. and upto Rs. 6000/- p.m.	Employees drawing pay above Rs. 6000/- p.m.
1-1-91	51% of pay p.m.	38% of pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 1785/- p.m.	33% of pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 2280/- p.m.
1-7-91	60% of pay p.m.	..	..

NOTE : The instalment of Dearness Allowance due from 1-1-91 in respect of employees drawing pay above Rs. 3500/- p.m. has been credited to their respective provident Fund Accounts.

Statement—II

Pension Range	Rate of Dearness Relief per mensem payable from 1-7-91
Upto Rs. 1750/- p.m.	60% of pension.
Above Rs. 1750/- p.m. and upto Rs. 3000/- p.m.	45% of pension subject to a minimum of Rs. Rs. 1050/-
Above Rs. 3000/- p.m.	39% of pension subject to a minimum of Rs. 1350/-

Reclaiming of pledged gold by Reserve Bank of India

402. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV:

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what amount of gold has been mortgaged to foreign banks in lieu of loan during the current year;

(b) whether any steps have since been taken to reclaim the gold pledged to the Bank of England and the Bank of Japan by the Reserve Bank of India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, indicating the amount of loan repaid, the loan still outstanding, the extent of gold freed and that still lying with the said foreign banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The amount of gold transferred to the Bank of England for raising funds against the collateral of gold was 47 fine metric tonnes.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) the entire amount of loan i.e. £125 million taken from the Bank of England and US $200 million from Bank of Japan has since been repaid. No loan is outstanding. The whole quantity of gold is unencumbered. The Reserve Bank of India has been requested to chalk out a plan to initiate a process of bringing back all the gold in instalments taking into account the level of currency reserves and security considerations for such transactions.